



Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo.

A P R I L

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What do you know! At this writing camp is about twelve weeks away. There must be a number of questions in your mind for both old and new campers. Therefore, this copy of the Trail comes to you with the hope that it will answer some of these questions and help you better prepare for the experiences about to come. Those of you who are old campers will be reminded of many things that may have slipped your mind. Those of you who are new campers will get a glimpse of some of the things you can expect at camp and for which you can be prepared. We know that everyone of you is wondering just who will be there, what kind of program we are going to have, what kind of staff has been recruited, and how things in general look for camp. Follow carefully this issue of the Trail, and you will have most of your questions answered.

As has been true for the last five or six years, our camp was filled way ahead of time. There are boys who have been waiting for almost two years now to get into camp. I know you will be interested in some facts and figures; there will be 44% of the Darer Unit returning; there will be 73% of the Doer Unit returning; 85% of the Pre-Senior Unit returning. This leaves an all-camp average of 67% of the campers

returning. As proud and as pleased we are of this percentage of return, it also proposes problems in that we are only able to allow 33% of the camp to be new campers.

We now have a large Waiting List for 1960 and there is real question as to whether or not a place will be available for next year if a person enrolls now.

One of the big questions on the mind of both old and new campers is, 'what's going to happen this summer?' That can be best answered by taking a look at a typical day. Rising will be at the usual time (6:40 A.M.) followed by personal clean-up. Each cabin will have appointed a "cruiser" whose job it is to serve the rest of the cabin at the Eating Lodge. This person will report to the Eating Lodge earlier, set up the table and be ready to serve the food when the rest of the group arrives.

Breakfast will be followed by cabin area clean-up in which both counselors and campers make their beds, sweep the floor, police the area, etc.

Instructional swim period is next where, according to his abilities, each camper will be in a class with a qualified in-

structor. (We had planned on getting some water warmers for the lake so that it would be comfortably warm. But, we discovered that the cost to warm the lake would be somewhere in the neighborhood of six million dollars. We decided we had better not try it this year!)

Following the swim there will be Assembly. It is to be a fun time, a time when we can enjoy ourselves as a total camp family. We will keep all announcements down to the minimum.

Next is a class in Christian Living. This year we are going to meet as a unit with a leader. He will talk for about 15 minutes and then the cabin group will discuss what has been presented. Christian Living time is not to be a time of dull, academic lectures. It is to be a time of exciting exploration. The training of resource persons as well as training for cabin group leaders is now well under way so that Christian Living may become a practical, realistic and helpful experience.

If the discussion gets going strong, the cabin group may want to carry over into the next period, which is cabin group free time. If not, the cabins may want to do planning for their own activities. They may want to get ready for an overnight or for a hike. They may want to plan out the cabin group time for the next week. Following Christian Living classes, there is time for the individual cabin group to carry out some of the responsibilities which it will have.

At 12:15 each cabin group cruiser will report to the dining hall and set the table. Lunch will be served at 12:30. As usual, there is a rest period. This will be followed by Interest Group time. Interest Groups will cover almost everything from Archery to Wrestling and, in-between will be Badminton, Choir, Creative Dramatics, Fencing, Nature Study, Public Speaking, Riflery, Sketching, Softball, Tennis, etc., etc., etc. We are pleased that Charlie Fauck will be back again this summer to help in our Crafts program. This year in the Crafts program we are going to make a special effort to keep the groups small so that Charlie will have much more oppor-

tunity to work with individuals and to offer personal help.

The next block of the day up until dinner will be cabin group time. Here the cabin group makes its own decisions about activities and may include such a wide variety as - swimming, boating, hiking, group games, cooking out, building a "home in the woods", taking water hikes, orienteering (do you know what that means?), canoeing, construction of outdoor camping facilities, learning sessions in Outdoorscraft, Naturecraft and Sailing. These are only a few of the activities which the cabin group may select to undertake. As part of the week's pre-camp training for the counselors, each counselor will have a full "bag of ideas" from which the cabin group can choose. These will run from exciting group activities such as a hot baseball game all the way to a quiet afternoon spent in sketching or in studying a tree stump. (When you learn how, that's a lot of fun!)

We will have on our staff this year a person who really knows about living in the out-of-doors. His name is Jim Key. Jim will not have a cabin group, but will be available to any cabin group on a sign-up basis to help them in any way he knows how.

The program continues with dinner and Vespers on Vesper Dune. Just to name Vesper Dune will bring back many memories to the old campers. To the new campers it is simply a name, but, after the experience of the summer it will be a well remembered spot. Every evening a different member of the Leadership Staff together with the boys in his cabin takes charge of the Vesper program. Here each fellow is challenged to do some real thinking about the purposes of his life and the way he goes about living.

Evenings will be taken up in one of three ways. Certain nights will be designated for cabin group activity. Here there may be overnights or lengthy hikes followed by a cabin council fire and a night sleeping out under the stars. Or, if there are not cabin group

designated nights, there may be unit activities. For those of you who do not know what a unit is, the camp is divided into three groups, the Darers (11 and 12 year olds), the Doers (13 and 14 year olds), and the Pre-Seniors (15 and 16 year olds). The Darers and Doers number about 72 campers each, and the Pre-Seniors number 54. If unit activities are not scheduled, there will be all-camp activities. Examples are, Council Circle, All-Camp cookout, special days, etc.

A question may come to your mind which would be quite natural, "who decides what you do on these nights?" On those nights given to the cabin groups, the cabin group itself will decide what to do. Again, the counselor will be loaded with ideas to help the group make their decision. On Unit nights, the Unit Council will have made a decision and will have made all preparation with the help of the staff. The Unit Council is part of the camper government which is made up of a representative from each cabin elected by that cabin, two appointed leaders from the Unit, and the Unit Director

On those days and night devoted to all camp activity, decision will be made by the All Camp Council which is made up of representative groups from the three units and meets with the camp staff and Director. There will be special days which the All Camp Council will need to make decision on, as well as those nights which will be devoted to all camp activity.

Following Nights' Doings, it is suggested that each cabin group have a talk-it-over session giving some thought to the day, the things they liked about it, the things they did not like about it. This gives the opportunity for a kind of family, cabin-group closeness which is so necessary to all of us.

One major addition is being made in the Younger Boys Camp this year which will speak more to the older campers than to the new ones. Our Eating Lodge has been almost too crowded. As a result, we have added on a large section to the Eating Lodge which will give us considerably more room. This will be to the north

toward Blazer. It will mean that we will be able to eat in much more comfort without all of the noise and close quarters which was true in the past.

There will be an Outcamping depot underneath the Eating Lodge from which campers will gather all of their equipment for Outcamping. There will be no need to disturb the kitchen or kitchen routine by getting food from there. This will help the dietitian - and we are pleased to say that Ruthie Steiner will be back again this year - as well as it will help campers get equipment and food easier. While we are on the subject, remember that there will be much more opportunity for Outcamping than there has been in years past. One of the secrets of having fun in the out-of-doors is having the right kind of clothing and equipment. Please don't misunderstand and run to your parents saying that you have to have \$300.00 worth of camping gear. We do not mean that. By and large, we will furnish all of the equipment which you need in the out-of-doors with the exception of ground covers (poncho), bedroll or sleeping bag, personal items such as knife and flashlight. There will be no particular need for you to bring along cooking equipment. However, if you think you might want to use it, bring it anyhow. It is not difficult to remind the old campers of how cold it can get some nights. For you new campers, we are half-way up the State of Michigan, and have opportunity to see the northern lights during camp and, if you do not know what northern lights are, you had better look them up in the encyclopedia. What you will find will convince you that you should bring a set of warm clothes to camp.

Several of us here have had to go to camp this last winter. What a sight! Stony Lake was frozen over completely. There were little huts dotting the lake to provide shelter for those who fish through holes in the ice. Snow was between 3 and 5 feet deep all winter. We tried walking up to the Younger Boys Assembly Building, and almost didn't make it, the snow was so deep. This has been one of the heaviest snow falls in the last 30 years. At least, that's what the people who live there say. It has been so heavy, in fact,

that for the first time we lost 2 buildings. The snow was so deep on the roof, that the building just went splat; the four walls fell to the side and the roof fell to the floor. Fortunately, we will have time to rebuild these buildings before camp.

At this writing we have now filled up our counseling staff. However, this does not mean that we have stopped looking for counselors for this summer. Quite possibly there will be those now signed up who may have to go to summer school or there may be other reasons for their dropping out. So we are looking ahead and are still talking with young men in college.

A lot of time and effort was spent in selecting our counseling staff for this year. We feel that it is one of the best staffs that Miniwanca Younger Boys has ever had. Most of the fellows who have been selected have been through a regional, week-end training program, and at this moment many of them are preparing for camp by reading books and other materials on the subject of camping. In addition to the week-end of training and the reading which each counselor will do before camp starts, there will be a full week of training for the leaders before camp begins. They will be going through many of the same experiences which you, the camper will be going through. Rather than talking about how to take a hike or how to build a hogan, or how to have fun on the beach, we are actually going to do many of these activities. That's when real learning takes place.

Younger Boys Camp will miss Ed Clark. Perhaps the old campers know that Ed is now on the staff as the Director of our Eastern Camp in Ossipee, New Hampshire. Ed began working on the American Youth Foundation Staff on March 1, and while we are at camp, Ed will be busy in the summer camp program at Merrowvista. We are pleased that Ed is now with the staff. We are sorry he will not be at Miniwanca.

It is a real pleasure to know that Aileen Givens will be back with us again this summer. As usual, Aileen will be helping us keep our books and records straight in the camp office. For those of you who

will be new campers, Aileen is one of those kind, gentle souls, who knows the answer to every question. You can be sure that the staff will be relying on her a great deal.

As we mentioned, Charlie Pauck will again be heading our Crafts program. He says, "Let's not get too crowded this year," and we agree. The Crafts program has always been popular, thanks to Charlie's guidance. With more emphasis upon cabin groups, this will mean that a cabin group may select to spend the afternoon in the Craft House and, of course, their leader would be with them.

Our camp nurse this year will be Mrs. Ross who is a registered nurse here in St. Louis. We have had the opportunity of meeting Mrs. Ross and talking with her and, she will be a fine addition to our staff. Mrs. Ross is a nurse in the operating room of St. Luke's Hospital which is also in St. Louis.

Jim Key's name has already been mentioned. Jim is a Tennessee lad who has spent much of his life in the out-of-doors (they tell me that is the way most of the people live in Tennessee). He is a senior at the University of Tennessee, and will be the boy to whom we will go for answers to such questions as, "How did the Indians make a drum? What is a Winnebago calendar stick, and how do you make one? What does a Kachina doll look like?"

Now, a word for the old campers. Here are the leaders from last year who will be returning: Rich Bell, Doug Dudley, Frank Flint, John Grant (John was a leader in 1956), Alan Johnson, Dave Juergens, John MacHatton, George Menges, Bob Neubauer, Allen Tinker, Tommy Welch and Mike Wilson. This gives us a return of a little over 40% which is a good percentage in any man's language.

I think that is about all for now. There is much more to say, but I am sure you are a little tired of reading. About the only thing we can think of now is getting up to camp. We will be looking forward to seeing you in just a few more weeks.

Founderly yours,

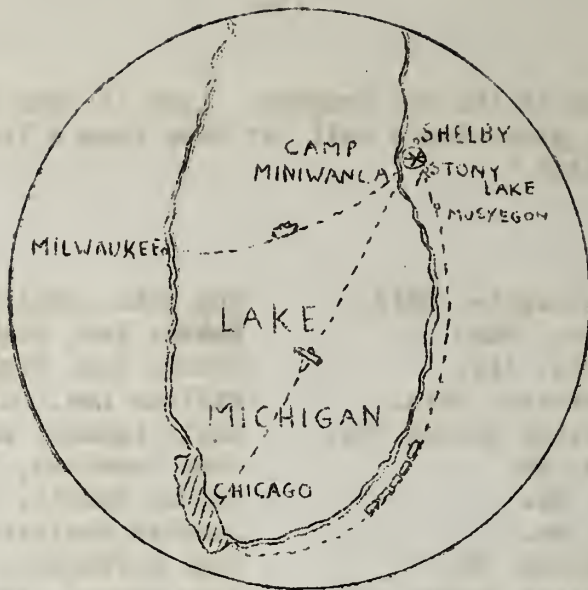
Carl E. Pitts

Following are the names of the new campers. Look it over and see if you recognize any names. If you do, give them a call or drop them a line and tell them you are "glad to have them aboard."

Walter Allen, Shaker Heights, Ohio
James Arisman, Columbus, Ohio
Richard Black, Winnetka, Ill.
Donald Bolenbaugh, Carrier, Okla.
Robert Bushyhead, Webster Groves, Mo.
Robert Capps, Liberty, Mo.
Byron Charles, Ladue, Mo.
Cecil Charles, Ladue, Mo.
Bruce Chrisman, Lexington, Ky.
David Christeller, Silver Spring, Md.
Donald Clark, Stockton, Calif.
Charles Cobaugh, Pittsburgh, Pa.
James Cook, Denver, Colo.
William Craig, Lakewood, Ohio
Carl Dischinger, St. Louis, Mo.
John Diehl, Dansville, Mich.
John Eidt, St. Clair Shores, Mich.
John Glenn, Columbus, Ohio
Howard Godwin, Manchester, Mo.
Robert Grady, Versailles, Ky.
John Graves, Robinson, Ill.
David Griffiths, Wilmington, Ohio
Thomas Griffiths, Wilmington, Ohio
Jan Henry, Rocky River, Ohio
Randall Hilscher, Canton, Ohio
Tom Holley, Kirkwood, Mo.
Charles Hollman, Belleville, Ill.
Michael Holt, St. Louis, Mo.
John Horney, Springfield, Ill.
Robert Hughes, Ladue, Mo.
Alan Johns, Fort Wayne, Ind.
Charles Judd, Cincinnati, Ohio
Kenneth Kallenbach, Mexico, Mo.

Tom Kuhn, Saginaw, Michigan
Robert Lee, Highland, Ill.
Thomas Lee, Highland, Ill.
William Lee, Milledgeville, Pa.
David Lehman, Smithville, Ohio
John Lundblad, Cincinnati, Ohio
Kenney Massie, Lexington, Ky.
Douglas McAlister, Lexington, Ky.
Hugh McPherson, St. Petersburg, Fla.
John Mennel, Fostoria, Ohio
Walter Moehle, Belleville, Ill.
Lawrence Moelmann, River Forest, Ill.
Rick Morse, Shelby, Mich.
Christopher Nelson, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Douglas O'Brien, Webster Groves, Mo.
Stephen Oesch, Youngstown, Ohio
John Putnam, Midland, Mich.
Gary Quackenbush, Birmingham, Mich.
James Roberts, University City, Mo.
Steven Ross, St. Louis, Mo.
Michael Saunders, Columbus, Ohio
William Savage, Titusville, Ohio
Melvyn Scherzer, St. Louis, Mo.
Donald Schnably, Weston, W. Va.
Charles Sears, Webster Groves, Mo.
Richard Seidel, University City, Mo.
Bob Shaw, Webster Groves, Mo.
John Stroh, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Delmar Valine, Carondelet, Ill.
John Wells, Shaker Heights, Ohio
Edgar Wolf, East Carondelet, Ill.
Michael Wood, Flint, Michigan



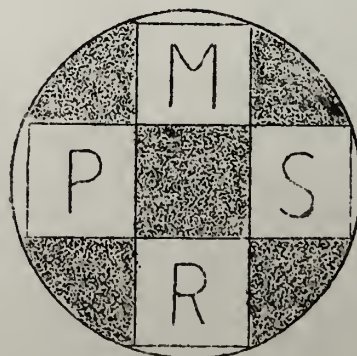


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JUNE 24-JULY 29, 1959

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